

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MELBOU 00223 100744Z

22

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 NEA-10 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00

COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00 FEA-01

AID-05 CEQ-01 OFA-01 EPA-01 IO-11 L-03 NSF-01 NSC-05

PM-04 USIA-06 OES-03 SS-15 SP-02 INT-05 /110 W

----- 000416

R 100441Z FEB 76

FM AMCONSUL MELBOURNE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3220

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY DELHI

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMCONSUL PERTH BY POUCH

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E O 11652 N A

TAGS EAIR, AS

SUBJ: CIVAIR: VICTORIAN GOVT GRANTS PERMISSION

FOR 18 MONTH SERIES OF CONCORDE PROVING FLIGHTS

TO MELBOURNE

1. OVERRIDING OBJECTIONS OF STATE ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION AUTHORITY, VICTORIAN PREMIER HAMER GAVE
APPROVAL (ON FEB 9) TO BRITISH AIRWAYS PROPOSED
THRICE-WEEKLY LONDON-MELBOURNE CONCORDE SERVICE, NOW
SCHEDULED TO START EARLY 1977 WITH INTERMEDIATE STOPS
AT BAHRAIN AND SINGAPORE. VICTORIA'S DECISION CLEARS
WAY FOR FINAL COMMONWEALTH GOVT DECISION ON SERIES
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PAGE 02 MELBOU 00223 100744Z

OF CONCORDE PROVING FLIGHTS EXPECTED IN NEAR FUTURE.

2. BEGIN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE: STATE AND LOCAL MELBOURNE GOVT LEADERS, AS WELL AS BRITISH CONGEN STAFF, EXPECT NO DIFFICULTY IN OBTAINING FEDERAL GOVT APPROVAL FOR FLIGHTS, AND SEE EARLY 1977 - OR, POSSIBLY, LATE 1976 - AS EFFECTIVE BEGINNING OF CONCORDE COMMERICAL SERVICE TO AUSTRALIA. BRITISH MINIMIZE POSSIBILITY OF DIFFICULTIES IN OBTAINING CONCORDE OVERFLIGHT RIGHTS OVER INDIA, APPARENTLY CRUCIAL AND IN VIEW OF AIRCRAFT'S LIMITED FUEL CAPACITY, AND DISCOUNT POTENTIAL QUOTE TROUBLEMAKING UNQTE CAPACITY OF ARDENT AUSTRALIAN CONSERVATIONISTS AND ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS.

3. COMMENT: VICTORIAN DECISION OBVIOUSLY TIED TO RECENT USG APPROVAL OF LIMITED CONCORDE FLIGHTS TO US. AUSTRALIAN COMMONWEALTH GOVT APPROVAL FOR SERIES OF PROVING FLIGHTS SEEMS LIKELY, THOUGH IMPACT OF ANTI-CONCORDE PRESSURE GROUPS MAY NOT BE AS MINIMAL AS BRITISH CONGEN STAFF BELIEVE. LONGER RANGE QUESTIONS OF CONCORDE'S ECONOMIC VIABILITY ON LONDON-MELBOURNE ROUTE, ITS POSSIBLE INABILITY TO MEET AUSTRALIAN NOISE AND EMISSION STANDARDS, AND POTENTIAL DIFFICULTIES IN OBTAINING RIGHTS FOR SUPERSONIC OVERFLIGHTS OF LAND AREAS, PARTICULARLY IN INDIA, CANNOT BE FORECAST WITH ACCURACY, THOUGH FIRST (ECONOMIC) FACTOR MAY PROVE EVENTUALLY TO BE OVERRIDING CONSIDERATION. AT THIS STAGE, IT SEEMS LIKELY THAT MELBOURNE WILL BECOME CONCORDE DESTINATION IN EASTERN HEMISPHERE, AND TERMINUS OF LONGEST PROJECTED CONCORDE ROUTE. END LOU. BRAND

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CIVIL AVIATION, CONCORDE, GRANTS, AIR SCHEDULES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 FEB 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976MELBOU00223
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760050-0018
From: MELBOURNE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760264/aaaacege.tel
Line Count: 96
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 APR 2004 by greeneet>; APPROVED <03 JUN 2004 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CIVAIR: VICTORIAN GOVT GRANTS PERMISSION FOR 18 MONTH SERIES OF CONCORDE PROVING FLIGHTS
TAGS: EAIR, AS
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006